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The History of Islam

(Volume One)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In The Name of Allah, The Most
Beneficent, The Most Merciful

Publishers Note

We are presenting before you the *History of Islam* in three volumes. This book was originally written in the Urdu language in 1922 (1343 AH) by Akbar Shah Khan Najeebabadi. This was the time about 25 years before the partition of Indian Subcontinent into Pakistan and India. For the purpose of brevity, the compiler has presented the authentic events in concise form from the famous histories of Islam written in the Arabic and Persian languages by the great Muslim historians like Tabari, Ibn Athir, Mas'udi, Abul-Fida', Ibn Khaldûn and Suyuti, apart from getting benefited from the authentic books of *Ahadith* for the compilation of the part about the biography of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. So, this compilation is actually the extract of the works of the famous Muslim historians.

Although Islam, the religion of Allâh, has been sent from the beginning with Adam عليه السلام, the father of man, but it is recognized as the religion which our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ brought to the mankind. So, this compilation has the mention of our Prophet ﷺ in the start. After that, useful information has been added about history, its beginning and its benefits, and some mention of the best possible ruling system for mankind has been presented which Islam advocates. Then the book takes its course of history from the conditions

prevalent in Arabia before Islam, and moves forward to the Prophet's life history, the Rightly-Guided Caliphate and then to the other caliphates and kingdoms after it.

This book was the need of the time to present the true Islamic events and their actual causes before the English readers because other books in English found on the Islamic history have been written by such authors and compilers who did no justice in presenting the true picture of Islamic Era but their prejudice prevented them from doing so.

We hope that the readers will find this compilation of great help in the study of Islamic history. The famous scholar Safi-ur-Rahman Mubarakpuri has revised the Urdu edition before its translation to check the authenticity aspect.

The translation was done by the Translation Department of Darussalam, and every care has been taken to reproduce the events and the names of the persons and places as accurately as possible. We thank all the persons who have cooperated with us to complete this task and produce it before you into a presentable form. May Allâh accept our humble efforts in this regard and send His peace and blessings on our Prophet Muhammad, his Companions and his followers.—*Amin!*

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager
Darussalam

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Foreword

There is no God except Allâh

A glance at world history makes it clear beyond doubt that, in every country of the world and in every age, all the Prophets, reformers, guides and founders of religions had belief in one God, and all of them made all-out efforts to convince their people of the existence of one Elevated Creator. Although Adam, Nûh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Mûsa (Moses) ﷺ and Muhammad ﷺ lived in ages hundreds and thousands of years far from one another, but their teachings had Oneness of the Creator as the common factor.

Krishnji, Ramchandrajji, Gautama Buddha and Guru Nanak happened to be in India; Kaiqbad and Zoroaster in Iran; Confucius in China, Luqmân in Greece; Yûsuf (Joseph) ﷺ in Egypt; Lût ﷺ in Syria and Palestine — but Oneness of God lies at the base of the teachings of all.

Almost all men and children, old and young, male and female, Christians and Jews etc., believe in Allâh the Almighty. May be, some people in very small number, refuse to utter the name of God but within their hearts they too feel His Presence. They have to admit that this process of cause and effect goes on created and supervised by some power wise to the extreme. This Wise and Well-Intentioned One is known as Allâh the Almighty.

None but the insane can reject the unanimous belief of the men of intellect and the magnificent creation of Allâh the Almighty.

Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allâh

The magnificent kingdom of Rome had already been broken into pieces and its semi-brute laws and constitution had become distorted enough to wipe out whatever good points happened to be therein. Persian Empire had become the storehouse of corruption and atrocities; China and Turkistan appeared to be the haven of bloodshed and ferocity; in India, the administrations of Asoka and Kanishka were non-existent: none could even think of the reign of Maharaja Vikarmajeet, nor was there any model of Buddhism nor of Brahmanism.

Those paying respects to Buddha would commit amply shameful acts for the sake of power and worldly comforts or out of weakness in belief. Those reading the rosary of Shri Krishn had no hesitation in making men the most honorable among the created things to prostrate before the vegetables and the stones. If Europe was like a forest with its men as bloodthirsty and ferocious as the beasts, the whole of Arabia had been reduced to the state of animality. In short, nowhere in the world human race appeared sticking to its pure quality of humanness and nobility. In a situation when the entire world had turned dark and dismal, it was the duty of the people of India to ponder over the fourth chapter of Gita where Shri Krishn Maharaj says:

“O Arjun! Whenever faith falls in jeopardy and faithlessness grows, I provide safety to the virtuous and establish faith by wiping the evils out.”

It was the sheer duty of the Persians to come out in search of a guide as per the dictates of Zoroaster. It was for the Jews to wait for the appearance of the light from the peaks of the Faran range and held themselves back from stopper stone becoming the cornerstone. It was the bounden duty of the Christians to make the prayer of Ibrahim (Abraham) and the glad tidings of Jesus, center of their hope. But the global corruption and disruption and all-round darkness had caused

human eyes to become so dark and blind that nobody was conscious enough to take himself to be ailing and go ahead for any medicine.

In such an age and in a territory like Arabia, Muhammad ﷺ rose to remove the mischief of polytheism, darkness of idolatry, pollution of corruption and disruption and defilement of vices and shamelessness, and raising the voice of *La ilâha illallâh*, he performed his singular and sacred duty of making men out of men-like people, and men to be men of high morals, and such noble people to be men of God to change darkness into light, righteousness, peace, uprightness and virtue; and carve pure Muslims out of the deviated, idolaters and evil persons.

Nûh عليه السلام was forced by the circumstances to do them away with the sword of "My Lord! Leave not one of the disbelievers on the earth!" (71:26) after his relentless efforts of hundreds of years to bring the deviated people of Iraq and Arabia back to the right path. Mûsa عليه السلام tried hard to show the Egyptians and the arrogant king the right path but at last, Mûsa (Moses) عليه السلام and Children of Israel saw the sight about which the noble Qur'ân then said:

"...and drowned Pharaoh's people while you were looking (at them, when the sea-water covered them)." (2:50)

It is for this that Maharaja Ramchandrajî invaded Lanka and fought with the demons, and Shri Krishn Maharaj persuaded Arjun to fight in the battlefield of Krukshetra, and had to destroy the defying Kurûs at the hands of the Pandûs. In Iran, Zoroaster made the wrestling of Isphandiyar and the Empire of Kiyani the base of his preaching and propagation of his faith.

But ancient scriptures and sociological traditions reaching the erudite scholars are unanimous that all the revered founders of religions and honorable guides in the way of righteousness have no example to show that, in a short span of less than 25 years, the worst country and the ignorant and brute people became the teacher and the most civilized and well-mannered people on the earth. In less than a hundred years, i.e., in 80 years only the followers of the Faith brought by Muhammad ﷺ encompassed an area ranging from Atlantic Ocean to Pacific Ocean, i.e., up to the eastern coast of China, and, to say, the whole of the civilized world. This world of ours cannot present any

other example of this miraculous success. And if the teaching of Islam is superior to all other religious codes and doctrines for its supreme qualities, who can then question the status of Muhammad ﷺ, being the best of all mankind, the Seal of the Prophets and the Mercy for the world? And who can muster courage to challenge the Divine claim for the Glorious Qur'ân brought by the Prophet ﷺ to be matchless and irrefutable? As the Qur'ân says:

"Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the *Dhikr* (the Qur'ân) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption)." (15:9)

History stands as the most effective and valuable source of putting nations on the course of progress and prosperity and saving them from the path of disgrace and degradation. Whenever nations have gone up to great heights, they have achieved inspiration from nothing but history.

The Noble Qur'ân has also told us that the study of history was quite essential for human grace and success in this world and the Hereafter. The events of the past nations remind us that such and such nations bore the brunt of their evil deeds while some others achieved grand success on account of their good deeds. Events of Adam, Nûh, Ibrahim, Mûsa and others and the plights of Pharaoh, Nimrod, Ad, Thamûd etc., have not been mentioned in the Noble Qur'ân for the sake of amusement and entertainment and to bring about sleep, but for producing in us courage to perform good deeds and keep away from misdeeds, and changing our present into bright future.

The Prophets who have happened to be the greatest well-wishers and most affectionate of all for mankind, have always reminded them of their past history to save them from destruction. None among the great leaders and reformers of the world appears to have ignored the past conditions and events in bringing about alertness and consciousness among the unconscious and self-denying people of their times. It is because of this, every sermonizer or speaker has recourse to interesting historical events to encourage and activate their audience. Among the past heroes too, we refer those who are closely related to us nationally and religiously, and they exert more influence on our lives. The study of the lives and deeds of Rustam,